

# STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a prevalent social problem that not only harms the victim, but also negatively affects the victim's family, friends and community at large; and,

WHEREAS, domestic violence knows no boundaries. It exists in all neighborhoods and cities, and affects people of all ages, racial, ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, one in four women will experience domestic violence sometime in her life. In Illinois alone, there are approximately 115,000 to 125,000 domestic crimes each year; and,

WHEREAS, for many victims of domestic violence, abuse experienced at home often follows them to the workplace, when they are harassed by threatening phone calls and/or emails; and,

WHEREAS, the health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking and homicide by intimate partners amount to nearly \$6 billion every year, and the annual cost of lost productivity in the workplace due to domestic violence is estimated to be hundreds of millions of dollars, with nearly 8 million paid workdays lost per year; and,

WHEREAS, the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act - VESSA - provides workplace protections specifically for victims of domestic or sexual violence; and,

WHEREAS, on August 24 of last year, legislation was signed amending VESSA to expand protections to more Illinois workers who are affected by domestic or sexual violence; and,

WHEREAS, VESSA, which is enforced by the Illinois Department of Labor, allows employees who are victims of domestic or sexual violence or who have a family or household member who is a victim of domestic or sexual violence, up to 12 workweeks of unpaid leave in any 12-month period; and,

WHEREAS, VESSA prohibits employer discrimination against any employee who is a victim of domestic or sexual violence or any employee who has a family or household member who is a victim of domestic or sexual violence; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Human Services is dedicated to ensuring that Illinois residents live free from domestic violence, promoting prevention, and working in partnership with communities to advance equality, dignity, and respect for all; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Human Services supports dozens of multi-service domestic violence programs throughout the state, offering counseling and advocacy, legal assistance, children's services, and shelter and support services at no cost to the victim; and,

WHEREAS, throughout the month of October, the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence and its 52 member organizations will hold numerous events across the state in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, including Silent Witness events, candlelight vigils, and marches; and

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 2010 as **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, to raise awareness about the problem of domestic violence throughout the state and its devastating effects on families and communities, and to urge all victims to seek help either by calling the Statewide Domestic Violence Helpline, 1-877-TO END DV (1-877-863-6338) or visiting a local help center.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,*  
 this SECOND day of SEPTEMBER, in  
 the Year of Our Lord two thousand and  
TEN, and of the State of Illinois  
 the one hundred and NINETY-SECOND

*Issac White*  
 SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*  
 GOVERNOR